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# Cuba Visa Inquiry Pledged

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The state attorney's office in Miami said Sunday it will inquire into the Cuban refugee visa situation about which Miamian Wendell N. Rollason is being questioned by immigration authorities in Mexico City.

Meanwhile, at the Rollason home here, 721 NW 71st Ct., Mrs. Rollason said the U.S. State Department called her Sunday morning and told her not to worry.

"The whole thing is stupid," Mrs. Rollason exclaimed. "Everything my husband has done is well known — with the knowledge of Washington officials."

Rollason operates a private agency which calls itself the Inter-American Affairs Commission. It has been active in Cuban refugee matters, and has been assisting Cubans in getting visas to enable their relatives or friends to leave Cuba and come to this country since 1960.

Mexican officials have not charged Rollason. Their investigation of Cuban refugee visas began after they reported they had discovered false visa authorizations appearing at the Mexican Consulate in Havana.

As part of that investigation, two Mexican immigration officials came to Miami and New York six weeks ago.

Mort Perry, an assistant in the state attorney general's office, said local files on Cuban visas were made available to the Mexicans and also to the New York attorney general's office.

Perry said his office received no complaints about Rollason or the Inter-American Affairs Commission but, in view of the Mexican investigation, he will make an inquiry.

He said he will request Mexican authorities, the New York attorney general's office, U.S.

Immigration officials, and U.S. postal authorities, to make available to him any pertinent information.

Another assistant in the state attorney's office, Seymour Gelber, said Rollason called the office before leaving for Mexico to tell them he would be glad to give them a statement if they were interested upon his return.

Gelber said that since there were no complaints about Rollason or his agency, no statement was taken at the time, but that the offer will be accepted upon Rollason's return.

Perry said local files contain about a dozen complaints from Cubans about the Personal Service Bureau at 1867 West Flagler St.

He said the complaints involved payment for visas which have not yet been delivered, or which allegedly were not valid. He turned over a copy of one such visa to the Immigration Dept.

Perry said he knew of no connection between Personal Service Bureau and Rollason, or his commission.

Mrs. Esther Kaufman, attorney for Personal Service Bureau, said her clients went through regular channels and applied for 120 transit visas, which are necessary for a Cuban to pass through Mexico on his way to the U.S. About 60 of them came through, and at least 30 of them already have been used, she reported.

"We are not sure whether the other visas are legitimate, or not. We are trying to find out," she said.

U.S. Postal Inspector E. M. Campbell said both Personal Service Bureau and Inter-American Affairs Commission have been the object of complaints filed with his office. They are from Cubans who claim they paid for visas that have not yet been issued. He said the price ranged from \$100 charged by Inter-American to as much as \$900 charged by Personal Service Bureau.

Earlier this month, the New York Attorney General's office charged the Imperial Travel Agency there with defrauding Cubans by promising to get

their relatives out of Cuba.

He got an injunction restraining that agency's advertising, as did the local attorney general's office in August with Personal Service Bureau.

The New York Attorney General's office said Imperial paid the Inter-American Affairs Commission to help obtain Mexican transit visas.

To leave Cuba, a Cuban must get permission from his own government, permission from the U.S. or any other country to enter, and a transit visa from Mexico which will allow him to pass through that country.

The Mexican investigation is reported to center both on the false visa authorizations said to have been discovered, and on whether payments were made to intermediaries in the Mexican State Department to obtain the visas.

Mexico has the only commercial air link with this hemisphere. Therefore, Cubans leaving the country either must acquire Mexican visas, or go out through Europe.

Irmina Bouza, Rollason's secretary, said Sunday the Inter-American Affairs Commission office at 920 NE 2nd Ave. would remain open from 9-1 each weekday, except Wednesday.

She released a statement saying that Rollason and the commission's sub-director, Anthony Farinas, were being held for investigation of visas issued to the IAAC in July of this year. It added that Mexican authorities have been unable to find evidence to bring charges against the men, and the office will remain open during their absence.

The secretary added that in addition to the two men and her, the IAAC employs four other girls and a janitor. She said they handled about 300 visa cases last year, charging \$125 for the first person involved in each application, and \$60 for an additional person.

She said the IAAC operated on this income and from private donations.

The IAAC apparently got into the visa business in 1959 or 1960. For some time, a Cuban

exile group the U.S.-financed Cuban Revolutionary Council, was a client. It assisted the council in getting visas for Cuban refugees. The council paid IAAC, but the refugees were not charged.

Council employees said that after the U.S.-council relationship was discontinued, the IAAC moved its visa files into its own office and continued the service with an individual charge to each applicant.

Rollason, 48, lives here with his wife and three sons, but travels frequently to Washington and Mexico, his wife said.

In April when the U.S. Treasury Dept. was investigating a number of refugee situations to determine whether they might be providing the Cuban government with a source of revenue, Rollason volunteered to discontinue his work until his position was clarified. No charges were made as a result of that investigation.

Rollason said then that his organization had "always worked in close harmony with federal units."

He estimated then that the IAAC had handled between 100,000 and 150,000 cases involving exiles since 1960, "most of which were routine waiver cases."

Mrs. Rollason said she was surprised at reports that her husband's business might involve as much as \$500,000 this year.

"If he made that much money I'd be down there with him now, instead of waiting here," she said.

Sen. Spessard Holland has asked the U.S. embassy in Mexico City to intervene in behalf of Rollason, and the senator's office said it hoped to have news by today.